

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-12. Cancelled.

13. (Original) A method of filtering an optical signal, comprising:

coupling an optical signal into an optical fiber;

receiving a filtered optical signal out of said optical fiber; and

varying a load applied to a compliant support block having at least a portion of said optical fiber embedded therein,

wherein said portion of said optical fiber embedded in said compliant support block has a periodic variation in refractive index along at least a portion thereof to form a fiber Bragg grating in said optical fiber.

14. (Original) A method of filtering an optical signal according to claim 13,

wherein said varying said load applied to said compliant support block changes a transmission characteristic of said fiber Bragg grating.

15. (Original) A method of filtering an optical signal according to claim 13,

wherein said compliant support block has a substantially cylindrical shape, and

wherein said varying said load applied to said compliant support block comprises changing a compressional force applied between opposing ends of said compliant support block.

16. (Original) A method of filtering an optical signal according to claim 13, wherein said

filtered optical signal is reflected from said fiber Bragg grating.

17. (Original) A method of filtering an optical signal according to claim 13, wherein said

filtered optical signal is transmitted through said fiber Bragg grating.

18. Cancel

19. (Original) A method of making a tunable optical filter, comprising:

disposing an optical fiber having at least a fiber Bragg grating portion into a substantially cylindrical mold;

pouring support material into a substantially cylindrical mold, said support material being compliant when it sets; and

allowing said support material to set.

20. (Original) A method of making a tunable optical filter according to claim 19, further comprising attaching a load-supplying assembly to said support material.

21. (Original) A method of making a tunable optical filter according to claim 19, further comprising attaching said optical fiber having said fiber Bragg grating portion to a core of pre-set support material prior to said pouring support material into said substantially cylindrical mold.

22. (New) A method of filtering an optical signal according to claim 13, wherein said optical signal coupled into said optical fiber is a wavelength division multiplexed optical signal having a plurality of signal channels.

23. (New) A method of filtering an optical signal according to claim 22, wherein said filtered optical signal is a single channel selected from said plurality of signal channels.